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M.L.  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

**JONES et al**

Atty. Ref.: 36-1452

Serial No. **Unknown**

Group:

National Phase of: **PCT/GB00/00375**

International Filing Date: **8 February 2000**

Filed: **July 10, 2001**

Examiner:

For: **DATABASE SYSTEM**

\* \* \* \* \*

**July 10, 2001**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

3. (Amended) A requirement management database system according to claim 1 in which said means for assigning identifiers assigns identifiers comprising:

a first part identifying the set of elements to which the identifier is assigned;

a second part identifying the data element to which the identifier is assigned within the set of elements;

a third part indicating the type of data element to which the identifier is assigned.

4. (Amended) A requirements management database system according to claim 1 in which the means for establishing a set of links is operable to establish a further set

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